

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 VO-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 /028 W

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R 031351Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9115

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 0022

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN VISAS: WATCHTOWER SOCIETY

REF: STATE 249474

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL EMBASSY ASKED DFA ASCERTAIN REASONS FOR REFUSAL OF VISAS FOR SUITER AND HENSCHEL AND TO SEE IF CASE COULD BE RECONSIDERED.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, A MR. MILLER, SOUTH AFRICAN BRANCH DIRECTOR FOR WATCHTOWER SOCIETY, VISITED EMBASSY. HE DESCRIBED MEETING WITH INTERIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY LINDEQUE, WHO MADE IT CLEAR THAT SAG HAD DISTINCTLY BAD OPINION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES. LINDEQUE'S MIND, ACCORDING TO MILLER, OBVIOUSLY WAS CLOSED AND MILLER'S PLEA THAT SAG RECONSIDER AND PERMIT H NSCHEL AND SUITER TO ATTEND CONFERENCE AND HENSCHEL TO INSPECT WATCHTOWER SOCIETY PROPERTY WAS OF NO AVAIL. MILLER ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD ASSIST.

3. TODAY DFA AMERICAN DESK OFFICER DU TOIT INFORMED US INTERIOR REAFFIRMED VISAS WOULD NOT BE ISSUED AND WOULD NOT STATE REASON FOR REFUSAL. DU TOIT, HOWEVER, SAID IN HIS OPINION REFUSAL AIMED AT ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS. HE TOOK NOTE OF OUR STATEMENT OF CONCERN BUT SAID INTERIOR WOULD NOT RECONSIDER DECISION. DCM THEN REITERATED OUR CONCERN TO DFA DEPUTY SECRETARY VAN DALSEN, BUT LATTER ALSO HELD OUT NO RPT NO HOPE OF RECONSIDERATION BY INTERIOR.

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HURD

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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